

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a polyisocyanate containing acylurea groups which comprises reacting an isocyanate corresponding to formula (I)



wherein

R represents an n-valent linear or branched aliphatic group or cycloaliphatic group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms or an aromatic group having 6 to 24 carbon atoms and

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

with a carboxylic acid compound consisting essentially of aliphatic carboxylic acids selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, hexanoic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalenecarboxylic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, dodecanedioic acid, eicosanedioic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, aromatic mono- or di-carboxylic acids, and/or and mixtures thereof in the presence of a metal-salt catalyst at a temperature of 20 to 220°C.

Claim 2. (Original): The process of Claim 1 wherein the catalyst comprises a member selected from the group consisting of salts of the elements of the first, second and third main group and the second and third subgroup of the periodic system of elements, and lanthanides.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein the isocyanate comprises hexane diisocyanate, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-isocyanato-3-isocyanatomethyl-cyclohexane, 3-isocyanatomethyl-1,8-diisocyanatooctane, and/or 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate).

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Claim 4. (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein the isocyanate comprises toluene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate or 1,5-diisocyanatonaphthalene.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): The process of Claim 1 wherein ~~an aliphatic~~ the carboxylic acid ~~is used and~~ comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid and/or dodecanedioic acid.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): The process of Claim 3 wherein ~~an aliphatic~~ the carboxylic acid ~~is used and~~ comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid and/or dodecanedioic acid.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): The process of Claim 4 wherein ~~an aliphatic~~ the carboxylic acid ~~is used and~~ comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid and/or dodecanedioic acid.

Claim 8. (Original): The process of Claim 1 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 9. (Original): The process of Claim 3 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 10. (Original): The process of Claim 4 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A polyisocyanate containing acylurea groups which is prepared by reacting an isocyanate corresponding to formula (I)



wherein

R represents an n-valent linear or branched aliphatic group or

cycloaliphatic group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms or an aromatic group having 6 to 24 carbon atoms and

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

with a carboxylic acid compound consisting essentially of ~~aliphatic~~ carboxylic acids selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, hexanoic acid, cyclohexane carboxylic acid, perhydronaphthalenecarboxylic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, dodecanedioic acid, elcosanedioic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, aromatic mono- or di- carboxylic acids, and/or and mixtures thereof in the presence of a metal-salt catalyst at a temperature of 20 to 220°C.

Claim 12. (Original): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein the catalyst comprises a member selected from the group consisting of salts of the elements of the first, second and third main group and the second and third subgroup of the periodic system of elements, and lanthanides.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein the isocyanate comprises hexane diisocyanate, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-isocyanato-3-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane, 3-isocyanatomethyl-1,8-diisocyanatooctane, and/or 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate).

Claim 14. (Previously Presented): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein the isocyanate comprises toluene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate or 1,5-diisocyanatonaphthalene.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein ~~an~~ ~~aliphatic~~ the carboxylic acid ~~is used and~~ comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid and/or dodecanedioic acid.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): The polyisocyanate of Claim 13 wherein ~~an~~ ~~aliphatic~~ the carboxylic acid ~~is used and~~ comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid and/or dodecanedioic acid.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): The polyisocyanate of Claim 14 wherein an ~~aliphatic~~ the carboxylic acid is used and comprises acetic acid, hexanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid and/or dodecanedioic acid.

Claim 18. (Original): The polyisocyanate of Claim 11 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 19. (Original): The polyisocyanate of Claim 13 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 20. (Original): The polyisocyanate of Claim 14 wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid is used and comprises phthalic acid.

Claim 21. (Original): A polyurethane coating composition containing a binder comprising the polyisocyanate of Claim 11.